**Self-reliance in defence systems**

1696. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set a deadline to become self reliant in defence systems and technologies to the extent of 70 per cent, by year 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that to achieve the above, the involvement of industry is most important; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has not set any deadline for self-reliance in defence systems and technologies.

(c) and (d) Industry is being involved in a big way both for developing technologies and for production. As a part of projects taken up by DRDO, the sub-systems and modules are being outsourced to industries for developing, prototyping, assembling and testing. Many industries have mastered many technologies in this process.

**Pension for ex-servicemen of less than 14 years service**

1697. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation from ex-servicemen of less than 14 years service, requesting for some pension;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the rationale for denying pension to ex-servicemen of less than 14 years service when M.P.s of less than five years service are getting pension; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider this matter sympathetically?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demand is for grant of pension to those ex-servicemen who had put in less than 15 years of service. As per existing rules, minimum qualifying service for pension eligibility is 15 years for Personnel Below Officer Rank and 20 years for Commissioned Officers.

(c) M.P.s and ex-servicemen belong to two distinct categories which are not comparable, being governed by separate set of rules.

(d) No change in the existing policy is contemplated by the Government.

**Modernisation of Armed Forces**

†1698. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether for modernization and increasing the striking capabilities of the forces, Government are importing defence equipments from different countries and carrying out production through joint venture;

(b) whether it has been ensured that state of the art technologies are being imported for setting up joint ventures with different countries; and

(c) whether it is contemplated to sign any joint venture agreement with countries/companies in under which the said country/company would purchase back the products in excess to the requirement of the country, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Modernisation of the Armed Forces, a continuous process based on threat perception, technological changes and budget allocations, is undertaken with a view to increasing the striking capabilities of the forces, through acquisition from indigenous as well as foreign sources in terms of the provisions of Defence Procurement Procedure 2006. The import option is exercised only when it is absolutely necessary to procure the items within a definite time frame on operational grounds to bridge the capability gaps and normally when such equipment cannot be sourced indigenously within a specified timeframe.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.